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Report on the 27th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

This document reports on the 27th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 12 to 14 March 2015. At the meeting, the LEG reviewed progress on the implementation of its work programme for 2014–2015, with a focus on the following activities: outcome of the stocktaking meeting on the work of the LEG; status of implementation of the national adaptation programmes of action; status of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs); technical guidance and support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs; regional training workshops for the process to formulate and implement NAPs; NAP Expo 2015; workshop on experiences, good practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs on the process to formulate and implement NAPs, in collaboration with the Adaptation Committee; outreach on the NAP process; gender considerations in adaptation planning and implementation in the least developed countries; monitoring and evaluation of the process to formulate and implement NAPs; best practices and lessons learned; support of coherence and synergy of adaptation under the Convention; mobilization of organizations, regional centres and networks; and interaction with the Global Environment Facility and its agencies, and with the Green Climate Fund. The document concludes with an update of the priority activities of the work programme of the LEG.

* This document was submitted after the due date in order to take into account relevant inputs.

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Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Mandate	1	3
II.	Summary of the 27th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group	2–95	3
	A. Proceedings	2–3	3
	B. Addressing additional mandates from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Conference of the Parties	4	3
	C. Status of implementation of national adaptation programmes of action	5–8	4
	D. Status of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans	9–16	6
	E. Technical guidance and support for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans	17–39	8
	F. Stocktaking meeting on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group	40–43	12
	G. Outreach on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group	44–50	14
	H. Support of coherence and synergy of adaptation under the Convention	51–60	16
	I. Mobilization of organizations, regional centres and networks	61–63	17
	J. Discussions with the Global Environment Facility and its agencies	64–90	18
	K. Discussions with the Green Climate Fund	91–95	21
III.	Work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2015	96–101	23

Annexes

I.	Projects from the national adaptation programmes of action which have been technically cleared by the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and are awaiting funding under the Least Developed Countries Fund	25
II.	Rolling work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2015	29
III.	List of questions from the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to the Green Climate Fund as feedback to the presentation made by the Green Climate Fund on 9 March 2015	33
IV.	Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group as at 12 March 2015	34

I. Mandate

1. The mandate of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) was extended at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) for a period of five years (2011–2015). The COP requested the LEG to develop a two-year rolling programme of work for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its first sessional meeting of each year, and to report on its work to the SBI at each of its sessions.[1]

II. Summary of the 27th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

A. Proceedings

2. The 27th meeting of the LEG was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 12 to 14 March 2015, immediately following the stocktaking meeting on the work of the LEG, which was held at the same location from 9 to11 March 2015 (see paras. 40–43 below).

3. At its 27th meeting, the LEG discussed the outcomes of the following two meetings in which it had taken part:

(a) A meeting held on 8 March 2015 with relevant organizations on the alignment of the materials being developed as supplements to the technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan (NAP) process.[2] The organizations present were Conservation International, the Global Water Partnership, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the International Water Management Institute and the University of Washington;

(b) On 11 March 2015, on the margins of the stocktaking meeting, the LEG had a discussion with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and two of its agencies, namely the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

B. Addressing additional mandates from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Conference of the Parties

4. In addition to its work programme for 2014–2015, the LEG considered the following mandates emanating from SBI 40 and 41 and from COP 16 and 20:

(a) The SBI invited the LEG and the Adaptation Committee to explore ways in which developing country Parties that are not least developed countries (LDCs) could be accommodated in the NAP Expo.[3] As a result, 20 developing country Parties that are not LDCs were invited to participate in the NAP Expo 2015 (see paras. 44–47 below for further information on the NAP Expo 2015);

(b) The SBI invited the Adaptation Committee, in collaboration with the LEG, to organize a workshop, back to back with a relevant meeting where possible, drawing upon experts and practitioners at different levels to share experiences, good practices, lessons

[1] Decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 3.

[2] *National Adaptation Plans: Technical Guidelines for the National Adaptation Plan Process.* Available at <http://unfccc.int/7279>.

[3] FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paragraphs 102.

learned, gaps and needs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, to be held prior to SBI 42.[4] The Adaptation Committee, in collaboration with the LEG, decided to organize this workshop immediately after the NAP Expo 2015. The workshop took place from 16 to 17 April 2015, in Bonn, Germany;[5]

(c) The SBI invited the LEG and the Adaptation Committee to prepare an information paper on experiences, good practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs based on the NAP Expo and relevant documents for consideration by SBI 41 and to serve as an input to the workshop mentioned in paragraph 4(b) above.[6] The LEG and the Adaptation Committee developed the information paper[7] and it was made available before SBI 41. The paper was further used as input to the workshop;

(d) The SBI invited the Adaptation Committee, in collaboration with the LEG and with the support of the secretariat, to prepare a report on the workshop mentioned in paragraph 4(b) above to be considered at SBI 42.[8] The report has been prepared;[9]

(e) The COP decided to explore options for enhancing reporting related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs as part of the workshop referred to in paragraph 4(b) above, and the review to monitor and evaluate progress made on the NAP process referred to in decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 37.[10] The COP request was accommodated in the design of the workshop, with the second day of the event being dedicated to discussions on reporting;

(f) The COP requested the Adaptation Committee and the LEG, in collaboration with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism, to consider how to best support developing country Parties in accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs, and to report thereon to SBI 42.[11] The LEG interacted with representatives of the GCF during the meeting and during the NAP Expo 2015, based on the guiding questions listed in annex III, with a view to providing relevant and timely information to the LDCs on the operation of the GCF. At the meeting, the LEG decided to invite the GCF to its meetings on a regular basis;

(g) COP 16 decided that COP 21 would review the progress, need for continuation and terms of reference of the LEG and to adopt a decision thereon. It decided on a set of actions to initiate the review, including a request to the LEG to convene a meeting, including with Parties, the GEF and its agencies, and other relevant organizations, with the assistance of the secretariat, to take stock of its work, before June 2015.[12] The LEG organized such a stocktaking meeting in March 2015 (see paras. 40–43 below).[13]

C. Status of implementation of national adaptation programmes of action

5. The GEF reported that, as at 2 March 2015, 50 LDCs had officially submitted national adaptation programme of action (NAPA) implementation project proposals in the form of project identification forms for funding under the Least Developed Countries Fund

[4] FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paragraph 106.
[5] <unfccc.int/8903>.
[6] FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paragraph 107.
[7] FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.14.
[8] FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paragraph 108.
[9] FCCC/SBI/2015/INF.6.
[10] Decision 3/CP.20, paragraph 8.
[11] Decision 3/CP.20, paragraph 11.
[12] Decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 9(a).
[13] The report on that meeting is contained in document FCCC/SBI/2015/8.

(LDCF). Of these, 48 countries had submitted at least two projects and 45 countries had submitted three or more projects. The majority of the projects submitted are on agriculture (31 per cent), disaster risk management (19 per cent), coastal zone management (13 per cent) and water resources management (12 per cent).

6. The GEF also indicated that, in total, 161 projects (including 8 medium-sized projects and 153 full-sized projects) had been approved by the GEF Council, with LDCF grants amounting to USD 905.6 million since 2007. Of the projects approved, 108 (excluding for NAPA preparation) had been endorsed or approved by the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF.

7. The GEF further indicated that five of these projects had been completed, while others were at various stages of implementation or ready to enter implementation. The terminal evaluation of each completed project identifies lessons learned, some of which are contained in paragraphs 76–88 below. Table 1 provides further details of the completed projects.

Table 1
Projects from the national adaptation programmes of action completed with support from the Least Developed Countries Fund[a]

Country	*Title of project*	*CEO[b] endorsement*	*Total project cost (USD million)*
Bhutan	Reducing climate-change-induced risks and vulnerabilities from glacial lake outburst floods in Punakha-Wangdi and Chamkhar valleys	March 2008	8.274
Burkina Faso	Strengthening adaptation capacities and reducing the vulnerability to climate change in Burkina Faso	April 2009	23.495
Cabo Verde	Building adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change in the water sector in Cabo Verde	September 2009	67.399
Cambodia	Promoting climate-resilient water management and agricultural practices in rural Cambodia	April 2009	4.485
Samoa	Integrating climate change risks in the agriculture and health sectors in Samoa	February 2009	4.405

[a] All projects have been implemented with the United Nations Development Programme as the implementing agency.

[b] Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility.

8. The GEF reported that, as of mid-2014, there has been a lack of resources in the LDCF. As a result, 22 projects that have been cleared by the GEF secretariat, some of which for more than a year, are still in the LDCF pipeline and cannot be approved until significant additional resources are made available in the LDCF. See annex I for a full list.

D. Status of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

1. Launching of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

9. Several countries have embarked on the process to formulate and implement NAPs, according to information provided to the LEG at a formal launch event and information contained in the information paper on NAPs,[14] presentations made at the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) workshops held in March, April and July 2014, the NAP Expos held in August 2014 and April 2015, and the LEG regional training workshops on NAPs held in November 2014 for Pacific countries and February 2015 for Eastern and Southern African countries.[15] While these sources of information might not cover all countries that have embarked on the NAP process, they do offer some insights on the critical mass of countries that are making progress in the process.

10. The countries mentioned include:

(a) LDCs: Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu and Zambia;

(b) Developing countries that are not LDCs: Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Cook Islands, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Morocco, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe;

11. At least one developed country has also embarked on the NAP process; Japan announced during the workshop on experiences, good practices, lessons learned and gaps and needs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs that it has started the process.

2. Status of formulation of national adaptation plans

12. Several countries have communicated the status of their NAPs; this information is summarized in table 2. In its statement at COP 20, the Sudan indicated that it has a NAP. Chile has also stated that it has produced a NAP.[16] During the stocktaking meeting on the work of the LEG, Burkina Faso indicated that it is undertaking final consultations on its draft NAP.

3. Progress on support provided[17]

13. Information on support provided thus far to the LDCs under and outside the Convention for the process to formulate and implement NAPs can be found in the report on the 26th meeting of the LEG[18] and in the information paper on the NAP process prepared for

[14] FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.25, paragraphs 14–15.
[15] Information available at: <unfccc.int/nap>, <http://www.undp-alm.org/projects/naps-ldcs>, <napexpo.org/2014> and <napexpo.org/2015>.
[16] Available at <http://portal.mma.gob.cl/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/PAN-web2.pdf>.
[17] Support provided by the LEG is described in chapter II.E below.
[18] FCCC/SBI/2014/13, paragraphs 10–16.

COP 20.[19] Additional examples of the support provided since the 26th meeting of the LEG are listed in paragraphs 14–16 below.

Table 2
Summary of measures undertaken by developing country Parties in the national adaptation plan process as at 14 April 2015[a]

Element of national adaptation plan process	*Number of developing countries*	*Measures*
Laying the groundwork and addressing gaps	6 (4)[b,c]	Stakeholder consultations
	4 (4)[d]	Stocktaking of available information on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation
	10 (10)[e]	Assessing gaps and needs in relation to the enabling environment for the national adaptation plan (NAP) process
	23 (21)[f]	Development of road maps and strategies for the NAP process (or in the process of doing so)
Preparatory elements	4 (3)[g]	Development of NAPs
	2 (2)[h]	Comprehensive risk and vulnerability assessments
	11 (4)[i]	Integration of adaptation into national and subnational development planning
Implementation strategies	1[j]	Development of implementation strategy for medium- and long-term adaptation
Reporting, monitoring and review	1[k]	Monitoring indicators (preparation of)

[a] Update to table 1 in document FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.25.

[b] Figures in brackets indicate the number of least developed countries.

[c] Benin, Comoros, Jamaica, Malawi, Togo and United Republic of Tanzania.

[d] Cambodia, Lesotho, Niger and Togo.

[e] Benin, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal, Niger, Senegal and Sudan.

[f] Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kiribati, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

[g] Burkina Faso, Chile, Ethiopia and Sudan.

[h] Lesotho and United Republic of Tanzania.

[i] Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cameroon, India, Indonesia, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

[j] Republic of Moldova.

[k] Colombia.

14. The NAP-GSP for the LDCs pursued the activities indicated in the report on the 26th meeting of the LEG and in addition, it conducted the following activities from September 2014 to March 2015: regional training workshops for the Pacific LDCs in November 2014,

[19] FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.25.

in conjunction with the LEG regional training workshop for Pacific countries; technical support for the organization of an in-country training workshop on NAPs in Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Malawi. In addition, the NAP-GSP is planning a NAP orientation event in 2015 for senior decision makers in Mauritania and the United Republic of Tanzania. In the case of the United Republic of Tanzania, the event will be followed by a technical training workshop. Training workshops are also planned to be conducted in Angola, Liberia and Madagascar, and Mozambique will be supported in undertaking stocktaking with a focus on cross-sectoral issues.

15. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has started work to support the process to formulate and implement NAPs in Uganda and Malawi through the strengthening of the capacity of key institutions, including the ministries of agriculture, environment and planning, and the local authorities. FAO also supports these countries in developing a road map for their process and generating evidence-based results of adaptation options for the agriculture sector using experimental design principles in a monitoring framework. FAO intends to conduct similar activities between 2015 and 2019 in the following countries: Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines, Rwanda, Thailand, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Zambia.

16. The LEG noted that more information on support provided to countries, including on the process to formulate and implement NAPs, is available through other channels under the Convention, including:

(a) Fast-start finance;[20]

(b) National communications;[21]

(c) Relevant submissions from Parties and organizations, including on finance, technology and capacity-building, NAPs and the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.[22]

E. Technical guidance and support for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

1. Training on national adaptation plans

17. The LEG organized the first two of the five regional workshops on NAPs it has planned for 2014–2015 in collaboration with the NAP-GSP for LDCs and developing countries that are not LDCs. The first workshop targeted Pacific countries and took place from 3 to 7 November 2014, in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The second workshop targeted Eastern and Southern Africa and took place from 23 to 27 February 2015, in Livingstone, Zambia.

18. In organizing these workshops, the LEG worked together with various organizations, agencies and regional centres through an advisory group.

19. The training workshops were open to LDCs and developing countries that are not LDCs in the region where the event took place. They were intended for national experts involved in the process to formulate and implement NAPs or other national adaptation planning and implementation efforts.

20. The training workshop for the Pacific countries was attended by 15 participants representing the four LDCs (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) and five developing countries that are not LDCs (Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau and

[20] <http://www3.unfccc.int/pls/apex/f?p=116:8:1596502543078050>.

[21] <http://unfccc.int/4056>.

[22] < http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions>.

Samoa) in the region. Representatives of the NAP-GSP, the GEF and its agencies, in particular UNDP and UNEP, the World Health Organization, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the secretariat of the Pacific Community, the University of the South Pacific, Griffith University and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization attended the workshop and served as resource persons.

21. The training workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa was attended by 46 participants representing the 12 LDCs (Angola, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) and 6 developing countries that are not LDCs (Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe) in the region.

22. The training used a mix of approaches, including lecture-type sessions, group exercises and showcase of country experiences. Tools and other resources of direct use to the countries to facilitate their work on the process to formulate and implement NAPs were provided. The country experiences were shared through several country presentations. The training materials were enhanced after the Pacific workshop to integrate feedback and suggestions for improvement received from participants and to tailor the materials to address the specific needs of the Eastern and Southern African countries. In the latter, the sessions were organized along the 10 essential functions of the NAP process to effectively drive the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The same approach will be adopted for the remaining workshops.

23. A large part of the training materials being used for the regional training workshops are derived from a sourcebook that the LEG is currently developing (see also para. 98(e) below). The LEG aims to finalize the sourcebook this year. The sourcebook intends to focus on 'how to', providing details on well-tested approaches and resources of direct use to the countries to facilitate their work on the NAP process. It will serve as a reference guide for national teams in their efforts under the process to formulate and implement NAPs in their country.

24. The LEG decided to organize the remaining regional training workshops on NAPs between July and November 2015 for North and West Africa, francophone LDCs and Asia. Lusophone LDCs will also be accommodated through an arrangement that will ensure effective use of resources. The exact dates and venues will be announced in the near future.

25. The LEG took note that the following experiences, best practices and lessons learned were shared during the first two workshops:

(a) Most country groups have a good grasp of their existing plans and policies, which makes it easier for them to understand the alignment of the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

(b) Existing plans and policies such as the NAPAs, the Joint National Action Plans in the Pacific and national development plans are a good basis for building on existing arrangements to develop a comprehensive adaptation planning framework;

(c) There are already existing institutional arrangements that can serve as the foundation for the institutional arrangements needed for the NAP process.

26. The LEG also took note of the following emerging needs for support expressed by participants at the workshops:

(a) Guidance on ways to formulate and implement NAPs across sectors/ministries and time frames;

(b) Understanding of how to make various international and regional programmes work in support of national efforts on adaptation under the NAP umbrella, to avoid conflicting messages and duplication of efforts;

(c) Understanding of how different vulnerability and risk assessments can be harmonized across sectors, as well as the harmonization of tools and methodologies;

(d) Further guidance to move from the assessment of climate vulnerabilities and risk to the identification of adaptation options and the development of robust programmes, policies and projects, including through showcasing real case studies;

(e) Ensuring effective engagement and capacity-building of institutions best suited to collect information, including non-governmental institutions;

(f) Developing scenarios at the nexus between climate change and socioeconomic considerations, building on the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);

(g) Stocktaking of information already captured in existing monitoring and evaluation systems in different sectors, and assessment of the suitability of existing frameworks to monitor progress under the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

(h) Practical ways to link the NAP process with low-carbon development strategies, the Sustainable Development Goals, the GCF and other relevant processes.

2. Supporting the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans through NAP Central

27. The design of NAP Central features three main categories of sites, namely:

(a) Country portals: these provide countries with the opportunity to manage their NAP materials, including archiving documents. They also serve as submission portals through which countries can share outputs and outcomes of their NAPs with the secretariat;[23]

(b) Collaborative sites: the user groups include the LEG, the Adaptation Committee and any other relevant organizations;

(c) Public pages: these comprise the NAP technical guidelines and relevant resources on the process to formulate and implement NAPs, information on support, event pages, country dashboards, navigators and case studies.

28. The LEG reviewed the progress made in further operationalizing each of the site categories. It noted that the country portals and the public pages[24] are already operational, and countries are able to share documents with the public pages of the system.

29. The LEG agreed that the next steps will involve finalizing the collaborative sites, enhancing the user interface for the public pages, and releasing all components to be found in the menu on the home page of NAP Central.

30. The LEG agreed to develop a pamphlet announcing NAP Central with a brief guide on how to use it. The NAP Central manual, a comprehensive user guide, is being developed as part of the development of NAP Central. The LEG also agreed to broaden the involvement of the support group in providing additional ideas on how NAP Central can be enhanced in providing support to the process of formulating and implementing NAPs.

[23] Decision 3/CP.20, paragraph 9.

[24] <www.unfccc.int/nap>.

3. Information paper on how the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans can be supported in the least developed countries

31. This information paper aims to inform the design and provision of support to the LDCs as they embark on the process to formulate and implement NAPs, by providing information on available support, including technical and capacity-building support, technology and finance. It also encourages countries to explore multiple sources of funding for different aspects of the process. Finally, it showcases how to use the sample NAP process developed by the LEG as a scoping tool to identify activities that could be undertaken and match them with sources of funding.

32. Building on its discussions at its 26th meeting,[25] the LEG decided to update the information contained in the advanced draft and make the paper available in the course of 2015.

4. Monitoring and evaluation of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

33. The LEG discussed the work it has done since its 26th meeting to further enhance the draft technical paper describing the tool for monitoring and evaluating progress, effectiveness and gaps (the PEG M&E tool) and its application to the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

34. The PEG M&E tool builds on the 10 essential functions of the process to formulate and implement NAPs as defined by the LEG.[26] Those functions, presented in box 1, constitute the services that the process to formulate and implement NAPs is meant to deliver to countries. The PEG M&E tool also suggests expected outcomes and metrics in the form of indicative questions/checklists for each essential function, which will support countries in monitoring and evaluating that function.

Box 1

Essential functions of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

Essential function 1: helping governments to provide national leadership and coordination of adaptation efforts at all levels and to act as the main interface with regional and international mechanisms.

Essential function 2: the collection, compilation, processing and dissemination of data, information and knowledge on climate change and relevant development aspects in support of adaptation planning and implementation.

Essential function 3: identifying and addressing gaps and needs related to the capacity for the successful design and implementation of adaptation.

Essential function 4: assessing climate-development linkages and needs and supporting the integration of climate change adaptation into national and subnational development and sectoral planning (through policies, projects and programmes).

Essential function 5: analysing climate data and assessing vulnerabilities to climate change and identifying adaptation.

Essential function 6: appraising adaptation options to support decision-making on adaptation investment plans and development planning.

[25] See document FCCC/SBI/2014/13, paragraphs 18–19.
[26] FCCC/SBI/2013/15, paragraph 43.

Essential function 7: promoting and facilitating the prioritization of climate change adaptation in national planning.

Essential function 8: facilitating the implementation of adaptation at all levels through appropriate policies, projects and programmes, taking into account opportunities for synergy.

Essential function 9: facilitating the monitoring, review and updating of adaptation plans over time in order to ensure progress and effectiveness of adaptation efforts and to demonstrate how gaps are being addressed.

Essential function 10: coordinating reporting and outreach on the national adaptation plan process to stakeholders nationally and internationally, and formally on progress to the secretariat.

35. The LEG will test the PEG M&E tool through case studies at the national level and in collaboration with relevant partners and organizations. After the test period, the LEG also intends to update the tool as necessary, taking into consideration lessons learned from its application at the country level.

5. Supplementary materials to the technical guidelines for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

36. The LEG met with some of the organizations developing supplements to the NAP technical guidelines on 8 March 2015, one day before the stocktaking meeting on the work of the LEG. During the above-mentioned meeting, the organizations discussed possible modalities to jointly advance technical work on the process to formulate and implement NAPs. This initiative aims to promote coherence of various approaches that are included in the supplementary materials.

37. Following this introductory meeting, the same organizations, in consultation with the LEG, organized a full-day meeting during the NAP Expo. The group discussed how to best encourage coherence in the NAP process through integrated approaches across the various sectoral issues, recognizing that NAPs are inherently cross-sectoral but are often dealt with in silos. Participants agreed to establish a NAP technical working group to consider an integrating framework for the NAP process that would elaborate key avenues for the integrated approaches for the formulation and implementation of the NAPs. Case studies will be conducted and documented at the national level to elaborate ways in which the integrating framework can be applied.

38. The LEG decided to continue to provide information on the NAP guidelines and contribute, without any implied endorsement, to the work of the NAP technical working group and other organizations as they develop individual or joint supplementary materials on the NAP guidelines.

39. Additional information on supplements to the NAP technical guidelines can be found in the report on the 26th meeting of the LEG.[27]

F. Stocktaking meeting on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

40. The stocktaking meeting on the work of the LEG took place from 9 to 11 March 2015 in Bangkok. The LEG noted that Parties and relevant organizations present had very

[27] FCCC/SBI/2014/13, paragraphs 25–27.

fruitful discussions. They took stock of the work of the LEG over the past 14 years, including the modalities that the LEG has employed to conduct its work and its collaboration activities with relevant organizations.

41. All Parties and other participants noted, with great satisfaction, the success of the LEG and the important role it plays in supporting LDCs. The Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States commended the LEG for having provided, since it was established,[28] some dedicated support to the LDCs, including through the NAPAs and NAPs. He indicated that the LEG has played a key role in consolidating linkages between LDCs and relevant institutions and organizations. He recognized that the LEG has also provided a strong impetus and necessary groundwork on adaptation in the LDCs. He noted the importance of the scaling up of the work of the LEG, including for preparing LDCs to fully access the GCF, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, the Under-Secretary-General stressed the need to ensure that adaptation actions are undertaken in coherence and coordination with other global processes, including the Istanbul Programme of Action[29] for LDCs and the post-2015 development agenda.

42. The LEG took stock of its work during its current mandate, and noted the following:

(a) The LEG has supported LDCs efficiently by providing detailed information and guidelines on how to prepare and implement NAPAs;

(b) The LEG has provided useful specifications on each of the elements of the LDC work programme other than NAPAs;[30]

(c) The LEG successfully developed the technical guidelines for the NAP process. These have been welcomed by Parties and other stakeholders, and are being used as the main resource for the process of formulating and implementing NAPs;

(d) The LEG has played an active role in supporting the work of other bodies under the Convention. For example, the participation of LEG members in the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, including as a Co-Chair of the Committee, contributed to the successful production of the workplan for the Committee;

(e) The LEG, as a dedicated support to LDCs for addressing climate change, is seen as a best practice which needs to be continued and strengthened;

(f) The achievements of the LEG lie in great part in its efforts to collaborate with the GEF and its agencies and a wide range of relevant organizations to support its work. There is value in further strengthening this collaboration to respond to the emerging needs of the LDCs.

43. The participants also discussed some of the emerging gaps and needs for fully implementing the NAPAs, and for effectively driving forward the process to formulate and implement NAPs. This led them to explore new areas in which the support of the LEG could be instrumental. Those ideas, as presented in the report on the stocktaking meeting,[31] could serve as useful input for future work programmes of the LEG.

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[28] Decision 29/CP.7.

[29] The Istanbul Programme of Action presents the vision and strategy of the international community for the sustainable development of the LDCs for the decade 2011–2020 with a strong focus on developing the productive capacities of LDCs. More information is available at <http://unohrlls.org/about-ldcs/istanbul-programme-of-action/>.

[30] See document FCCC/SBI/2012/7, paras 31–45.

[31] FCCC/SBI/2015/8.

G. Outreach on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

1. The NAP Expo

44. The LEG discussed arrangements for the organization of the NAP Expo 2015. The LEG members decided to prepare a summary report on the event soon after it had taken place, to be integrated into the report on the 27th meeting of the LEG. As a result, this summary report is presented below.

45. The NAP Expo was held on 14 and 15 April 2015. It preceded the workshop on experiences, good practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The event was attended by over 160 participants with affiliations similar to those who attended the NAP Expo in 2014, namely:

(a) Parties: LDCs; developing countries that are not LDCs, which were invited in response to the SBI 40 mandate referred to in paragraph 4(a) above; countries with economies in transition and developed countries;

(b) Convention bodies: the LEG, the Adaptation Committee and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE);

(c) United Nations organizations and specialized agencies;

(d) The NAP-GSP;

(e) Bilateral and multilateral agencies;

(f) Regional centres and networks;

(g) Non-governmental organizations;

(h) Research institutions;

(i) Individual experts, including lead authors of various chapters of the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC.[32]

46. Participants noted the value of the NAP Expos, and commended the LEG for a very successful event. The LEG discussed the need to start planning early for future Expos, and decided to engage the advisory group for the NAP Expos in the near future in order to start planning dates and venue in good time for next year. The LEG noted the great success of the sessions organized by partnering organizations during the first day of the Expo. The LEG decided to further enhance the engagement of relevant organizations in partnering in future NAP Expos, including greater participation in the logistical arrangements.

47. The key messages from the NAP Expo 2015 are presented in box 2. They reflect the outcome of the presentations and the rich discussions that were held during the parallel and plenary sessions.

[32] Additional background information on the NAP Expo 2015 is available at <unfccc.int/8887>.

Box 2

NAP Expo 2015 themes and key messages

Integration of adaptation into development planning processes

- Integration is a process in itself and happens over several years – it is not a prerequisite for formulating and implementing adaptation plans; rather, it is an important early activity
- Institutional arrangements for integration are best motivated and guided by needs for monitoring and reporting at the national level. For example, the need to monitor and review climate change funding can motivate the creation of budget codes for climate change
- Country ownership at all levels and high-level commitment and political will is very important. Commitment needs to be over the long term to ensure continuity beyond political mandates
- Programmatic approaches provide an opportunity to address adaptation through a multi-sectoral, multiple-scale approach, with a longer time frame and potential for resource optimization
- Planning in an integrated manner is a useful basis for long-term planning and requires the inputs and participation of diverse experts and stakeholders, and may involve major changes in systems and infrastructure
- Financial needs assessment at various stages of the NAP process could help to identify relevant sources of funding (including the private sector) and the mobilization of resources

Supporting an integrated approach for the NAP process

- A group of organizations and agencies together with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) discussed how to best encourage coherence in the technical aspects of the NAPs through integrated approaches across the various dimensions (sectors, scales, themes), recognizing that NAPs are inherently cross-sectoral
- Participants agreed to establish a NAP technical working group to explore possible avenues for the integrated approaches for the formulation and implementation of NAPs, including through working on country case studies. The NAP technical working group decided to start its work by the consideration of an integrating framework for the preparatory element of the NAP process

Ecosystem-based approaches

- When undertaking ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation, it is important to take into account non-climate pressures on ecosystems
- An ecosystem-based approach is an approach within an overall adaptation strategy and it is important to assess all the options, including through cost–benefit analyses

Monitoring and evaluation

- There is a difference between the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the NAP process and M&E of adaptation
- When developing a national adaptation M&E system, the first step should be to define the purpose of M&E, identify the users and define how the system can facilitate learning
- National adaptation M&E systems need to be tailored to the national context and linked to existing data and monitoring systems. Learning from other countries' examples is very useful

Regional approaches

- Enhanced and more formal collaboration between the LEG and regional centres and networks would ensure better coverage of regional issues and promote South–South collaboration between LDCs and non-LDCs
- Regional centres and networks are useful platforms for creating adaptation communities of practice such as for regional programmes, technical assessments and support to regional policies
- The regional level is another important scale for exploring adaptation options (policies, programmes and activities), in addition to the national and subnational levels

Six dimensions of successful adaptation[a]

- Success depends in part on how adaptation is interpreted
- Success tends to be more difficult to define than failure
- There is no final success as adaptation is an evolutionary process; instead, it may be easier to define progress
- Six key dimensions of successful adaptation are:
  - Process – assessment and planning process
  - Decision-making – choose good options and make the right decision
  - Implementation – successfully implement specific adaptation
  - Outcome – good adaptation outcome, avoid maladaptation
  - Capacity – establish enabling conditions
  - Overcome barriers – identify and develop effective strategies to overcome barriers

[a] From a keynote presentation by Susanne Moser, available at <http://napexpo.org/2015/?session=session-viii-plenary>.

2. Publication of an overview of the process to formulate and implement the national adaptation plans and other products

48. Based on the feedback received in its regional training workshops and interaction with the Adaptation Committee, the LEG acknowledged the need for broadening the awareness of the guidelines for NAPs, in particular at the national level to ensure full country-ownership and buy-in.

49. In this context, it decided to develop a publication presenting an overview of the process to formulate and implement NAPs.[33] The LEG reviewed the extended outline of the draft publication at the meeting.

50. The LEG decided to make the publication available by SBI 42 or soon thereafter.

H. Support of coherence and synergy of adaptation under the Convention

1. Inputs to the work of the interim Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

51. The LEG noted that the work it had done as part of the interim Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism came to an end at COP 20.

52. The LEG continued to acknowledge the potential importance of analysing the mandates and workplans or work programmes of relevant constituted bodies and expert groups with a view to identifying linkages and areas of coherence and synergy.

[33] More information on this publication can be found in document FCCC/SBI/2014/13, paragraphs 35–37.

2. Collaboration with the Adaptation Committee

53. The LEG took part in the 6th meeting of the Adaptation Committee, held in September 2014.[34] The LEG also took part in a meeting on NAPs organized by the Adaptation Committee task force on NAPs just before the 6th meeting of the Adaptation Committee. This meeting aimed to explore strategic efforts to address gaps and needs encountered by developing countries when undertaking the process to formulate and implement NAPs.[35]

54. The LEG collaborated with the Adaptation Committee in preparing an information paper on experiences, good practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.[36] The LEG further collaborated on the organization of the workshop on the same theme that took place from 15 to 16 April in Bonn.

55. In parallel, the LEG continued its ongoing collaboration with the Adaptation Committee on the further development of NAP Central, the organization of the NAP Expos and capturing best practices and lessons learned in adaptation, and through the work of the task force.

3. Collaboration with the entities of the Technology Mechanism

56. The LEG discussed ways to enhance its collaboration with entities of the Technology Mechanism. The LEG members suggested that it would be a good idea to approach the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) to join efforts to better communicate opportunities offered by the CTCN to support the implementation of NAPAs and the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

57. In addition, the LEG agreed that it would be a good opportunity to invite the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) to provide, as part of the materials for the regional training workshops on NAPs, relevant modules that would provide information on the support available to LDCs for accessing technologies for adaptation.

58. The LEG also discussed the possibility of developing an information paper that would provide examples of the application of adaptation technologies in adaptation planning and implementation, in collaboration with the TEC.

59. The LEG agreed to invite the TEC and the CTCN to collaborate on the activities indicated in paragraphs 56–58 above.

4. Revision of the technical papers on regional synergy and synergy among multilateral environmental agreements

60. Information on the revision of the technical papers on regional synergy and synergy among multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) is contained in the report on the 26th meeting of the LEG.[37] See also paragraph 98(c) below.

I. Mobilization of organizations, regional centres and networks

61. The LEG took note of its continuous engagement with a wide range of organizations, regional centres and networks in the implementation of its work programme for 2014–2015. It noted that it had engaged various experts and/or representatives from:

[34] See <http://unfccc.int/8467>.
[35] Information on the outcome of the meeting is available at <unfccc.int/8467>, agenda item 5 on NAPs.
[36] FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.14.
[37] FCCC/SBI/2014/13, paragraphs 52–54.

(a) Parties;

(b) Convention bodies (the Adaptation Committee, the TEC, the Standing Committee on Finance and the CGE);

(c) The GEF;

(d) The GCF;

(e) United Nations organizations and specialized agencies;

(f) Bilateral and multilateral agencies;

(g) Regional centres and networks;

(h) NAP-GSP for LDCs;

(i) National, regional and international non-governmental organizations.

62. Specific activities for which the experts and/or representatives were engaged included the LEG regional training workshops on NAPs for Pacific countries and for Eastern and Southern Africa (see paras. 17–26 above), the LEG side event at SBI 41, the conduct of some of the sessions at the NAP Expo 2015, the ongoing development of NAP Central and the finalization of some of the LEG products, including the publication on strengthening gender considerations in adaptation planning and implementation in the LDCs.

63. The LEG decided to continue to mobilize relevant organizations and experts in implementing its work programme.

J. Discussions with the Global Environment Facility and its agencies

64. The LEG, the GEF and two of its agencies, UNDP and UNEP, met on 11 March 2015, one day before the meeting of the LEG. They discussed the current situation in the LDCF and emerging issues and lessons learned from completed LDCF projects and GEF programmatic approaches. During its closed meeting, the LEG decided to solicit the GEF for complementary information. It received the requested information electronically and has integrated it into this report.

65. The LEG noted the difficulty of receiving regular inputs from agencies other than UNEP and UNDP on their activities in providing support to the NAPAs and the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

1. Discussion on the level of funding currently in the Least Developed Countries Fund and amount each least developed country can access in 2015

66. The GEF, UNDP and UNEP warned that the lack of resources in the LDCF (see para. 8 above) is jeopardizing the momentum that countries had gained for fully implementing their NAPA priorities and conducting the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

67. UNDP and UNEP further explained that although the NAP-GSP can do the initial work with countries, meaningful progress in the NAPs will depend on the level of resources available for countries to conduct the process. The bulk of the work to advance efforts at the country level on the formulation of NAPs is within the LDCF projects awaiting funding. Some countries have already reorientated some of the approved LDCF money to do their NAP but it is a challenging exercise. UNDP stated that the priority over the next six months should be to ensure that LDCs have the resources that they need to fully

implement their NAPAs and continue progressing in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

68. The LEG shared the concerns of the GEF, UNDP and UNEP, namely that the lack of funding in the LDCF is likely to impede the full implementation of NAPAs and undermine the momentum created for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The LEG felt that this situation would also affect the implementation of some of the elements of the LDC work programme other than NAPAs. The LEG encouraged the GEF to find ways to mobilize sufficient resources this year to at least fund projects that are in the LDCF pipeline and which have been technically cleared by the GEF secretariat (see annex I). The LEG also indicated that it stands ready to provide any supporting information for the meeting of the LDCF- SCCF Council in June, if invited by the GEF to do so.

2. Other elements of the least developed countries work programme

69. On the margins of the stocktaking meeting on the work of the LEG, UNDP and UNEP organized the launch of their global project: "Building capacity for LDCs to participate effectively in intergovernmental climate change processes", which is being funded through the LDCF. This project aims to strengthen institutional and technical capacities in the LDCs for more effective participation in intergovernmental climate change negotiations and coordination of climate change efforts.

70. The global project was launched on 11 March 2015. The Chairs of the LEG and the LDC group were invited to sit on the board and provided inputs prior to the launch. UNDP and UNEP decided, in consultation with the LDC group and the LEG, to organize a training workshop for LDC negotiators as a first activity. This training workshop took place in Bonn from 15 to 16 April 2015, immediately after the NAP Expo and in parallel with the workshop on experiences, best practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

71. Additional activities are planned for the remainder of 2015, including activities relating to the translation and dissemination of knowledge products on climate change negotiations through existing networks and climate change related forums and the strengthening of South–South and North–South cooperation and knowledge exchange.

72. As a member of the board, the LEG requested that it be updated regularly on progress made in implementing this global project.

3. The strategy for adaptation of the Global Environment Facility

73. The GEF stated that its programming strategy for adaptation is captured in two strategic pillars, namely:

(a) Integrating climate change adaptation into relevant bodies, plans, programmes and decision-making processes in a continuous, progressive and iterative manner as a means to identify and address short-, medium- and long-term adaptation needs;

(b) Expanding synergies with other GEF focal areas.

74. The first pillar focuses on addressing the adaptation priorities that countries have already identified, while advancing NAP processes and ensuring continuous integration into development planning processes. The second pillar builds on the experience of the GEF of multi-trust fund projects and programmes over the past four years with a view to more strategically pursuing synergies across adaptation and other focal areas.

75. In moving forward, the GEF intends to clarify the added value of its adaptation programme vis-à-vis other funds and mechanisms.

4. Lessons learned from completed national adaptation programmes of action

76. Paragraphs 77–88 below present the lessons learned collected by the GEF and its agencies from the completed NAPA projects funded through the LDCF.

Planning and design

77. A good design leads to good implementation, which in turn leads to good project results. There is a better chance for a project that is well designed to be a success. Every step of the way counts in the success of a project and it is much easier to succeed when all these steps are relevant and implemented effectively and efficiently (Bhutan).

78. The underestimation of costs in the development of micro-projects can be a contributing factor to failure (Burkina Faso).

79. Working with various projects at the same time can help the operation of the project to be more effective than a stand-alone project. Synergies can be developed between projects with knowledge and experience sharing while competition between projects needs to be prevented (Cambodia).

80. Key factors in the success of the mainstreaming activities are the continuous following up with tangible investment support, a strong focus on community participation and 'hand-holding' support from local authorities. Without investment support, stakeholders can be demotivated in their mainstreaming efforts, especially at the provincial, district and commune levels (Cambodia).

81. Full-time coordination is essential in making sure that sufficient resources are allocated and results are compiled, interpreted and disseminated in a timely manner (Samoa).

82. For science-focused activities, sufficient time needs to be allocated to validate data and to allow interpretation and dissemination. Without adequate preparedness, there is a risk to the overall quality of the results (Samoa).

Stakeholder participation

83. In addition to capacity development, a project procuring tangible deliverables that are selected by stakeholders brings concrete results to stakeholders and beneficiaries with positive direct and immediate impacts on them. It contributes to a strong participation of stakeholders and beneficiaries in project activities and overall to a better effectiveness of project activities (Bhutan).

Implementation strategies

84. The adoption of an adaptive management of projects is necessary to effectively respond to needs and priorities of stakeholders and beneficiaries. Such a type of project management offers the capacity to adapt the projects to changes, including disruptive events, and yet safeguard their overall efficiency and effectiveness. In addition, conducting a technical review of these projects towards their end is an excellent way to document/detail their achievements. It provides a body of knowledge – approaches, methodologies, lessons learned and best practices – that can be made available to all through the Web and contribute to their replication and scaling up in the country and in the region (Bhutan).

85. A technical committee that supports project implementation and acts as an intermediate technical body between a high-level project steering committee and the project implementation units can provide both agility in decision-making and political leverage by enabling access by project implementation units to other relevant institutions. (Cabo Verde).

86. An intervention in the area of adaptation to climate change can produce sustainable results if the decentralized structures as well as the beneficiary communities are involved in

the implementation and if the emphasis is put on the strengthening of the organizational and operational capacities of these actors. Such an approach facilitates the implementation of the project and ensures ownership of project achievements (Burkina Faso).

87. Local structures are good relays in the monitoring of activities, especially after the project has ended (Burkina Faso).

88. National implementation modality should be tailored for multi-sectoral projects (Samoa).

5. Lessons learned from programmes developed by the Global Environment Facility

89. The GEF also shared with the LEG some initial lessons from its regional and global programmes, including:

(a) The Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change regional programme (Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)), which addressed the need of 13 Pacific countries to climate-proof infrastructure assets, public health systems and natural resources management through ridge to reef approaches;

(b) The Sahel and West Africa Programme in Support of the Great Green Wall Initiative (LDCF); the programme is an early example of a programmatic approach that integrates adaptation and the pursuit of multiple global environmental benefits;

(c) The initiative on Climate Information for Resilient Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in Africa (LDCF), and a similar one for the Latin American countries (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador and Peru) (SCCF);

(d) Integrated Approach Pilot Programme on Enhancing Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa (GEF Trust Fund); through this approach supporting 12 countries, the GEF is seeking to position the management of natural capital (land, soil, water, vegetation and genetic resources) as a priority in the transformation of the agriculture sector for food security in Sub-Saharan Africa.

90. The four programmes mentioned above have helped to show that a programmatic approach can provide an opportunity to address adaptation in multiple sectors and on multiple scales, with a longer time frame and greater potential for resource optimization, and an opportunity for enhanced partnerships, catalytic effects, synergies including among MEAs, and continuous learning.

K. Discussions with the Green Climate Fund

91. Following the mandate it received at COP 20 to consider how to support developing country Parties in accessing funding from the GCF,[38] the LEG and the secretariat of the GCF had discussions via Skype on the second day of the LEG meeting. The questions that the LEG asked the secretariat of the GCF are contained in annex III.

92. A few days before, at the stocktaking meeting on the work of the LEG, a representative of the GCF secretariat presented, via Skype, the current situation in the GCF. In addition, the LEG interacted with a representative of the secretariat of the GCF at the NAP Expo 2015.

93. The following information was shared by the GCF:

(a) The GCF sees the LDCs as a priority and is open to opportunities to support this group of countries in accessing resources;

[38] Decision 3/CP.20.

(b) One area for the provision of support is the readiness programme, which aims to provide support to countries with lower capacity to access the Fund's resources. The Board of the GCF recognized that not only the LDCs but also the small island developing States (SIDS) and the African countries would fall into this category;

(c) Countries that are interested in securing readiness support for NAPs need to approach the GCF at their earliest convenience. A conversation between the GCF and the country will take place to understand the country's needs, which could then lead to the development of a budget and the securement of readiness funding to support the formulation of NAPs. The readiness programme could also be used to identify and implement the country's already formulated projects and programmes;

(d) There is no cap or ceiling per country in the GCF, except for the readiness programme, where a cap is set. In this instance it is up to USD 1 million per country per year for countries accessing the readiness funding with the support of a multilateral entity and USD 300,000 for the ones seeking direct access;

(e) While it is agreed that 50 per cent of adaptation resources are to be channelled to LDCs, SIDS and African countries, the modalities for applying, reviewing and accessing resources from the GCF are the same for all countries;

(f) The GCF has not set any deadlines for accepting project proposals. It expects to receive them on an ongoing basis. On 13 March 2015, the representative of the secretariat of the GCF who spoke via Skype with the LEG indicated that as soon as multilateral and/or national entities are accredited, LDCs and other countries will be able to submit proposals to the GCF. The first entities will be accredited through so-called fast-tracked accreditation in the first half of 2015, while other entities could be accredited by the end of 2015;[39]

(g) If at least 50 per cent of the pledges to the GCF are confirmed and turned into a legal instrument, the GCF plans to fund the first set of project and programme proposals by October 2015;

(h) In addition to providing funding to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, the GCF also welcomes NAPA project proposals.

94. The GCF representative further highlighted some of the areas where a collaboration with the LEG would be useful, including:

(a) Informing the LDCs that the GCF is moving into full operation and is very interested in engaging with them to identify their support needs, in particular in the context of the GCF readiness programme;

(b) Assisting in the dissemination of the fourth strategic impact result areas of the GCF;

(c) Understanding how to make adaptation strategies developed by countries fundable under the GCF;

(d) Clarifying the concept of intended nationally determined contributions, in particular with regard to what countries expect the contribution of multilateral funding sources to be after 2020.

95. The LEG agreed to continue to collaborate with the GCF, through its secretariat, to provide relevant information on the operation of the Fund to the LDCs. Building on the

[39] As at 14 April 2015, seven entities have been accredited by the GCF. Further information is available at <http://www.gcfund.org/operations/accreditation/accredited-entities.html>.

fruitful engagement with the secretariat of the GCF at the meeting, the LEG decided to invite a representative of the secretariat of the Fund to each of its meetings.

III. Work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2015

96. The LEG reviewed the progress made in implementing its work programme for 2014–2015. In addition to the existing activities, which are either under implementation or will be implemented in 2015, the LEG identified new activities to be conducted in the final year of its current mandate.

97. The LEG also discussed the prioritization of its activities, noting the encouragement by SBI 40 to the LEG to maintain flexibility in the management of its work programme, taking into account available resources.[40] It decided to give priority to the following three activities until its next meeting, to be held in the third quarter of 2015:

(a) The three remaining regional training workshops on NAPs;

(b) The finalization and dissemination of the first set of publications for 2015;

(c) The further operationalization of NAP Central.

1. List of publications being prioritized and finalized

98. The LEG noted that the following publications are in the process of being finalized:

(a) A publication on strengthening gender considerations in adaptation planning and implementation in the LDCs;[41]

(b) The third volume of the publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs. The publication will focus on the initial work that can be undertaken as part of the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The LEG noted with satisfaction that the publication applied the revised methodology for capturing best practices and lessons learned as developed by the advisory group.[42] The LEG provided additional comments to facilitate its finalization;

(c) Revised versions of the technical papers on regional synergy and synergy among MEAs;

(d) Information paper on how the process to formulate and implement NAPs can be supported in the LDCs;

(e) A sourcebook for the process to formulate and implement NAPs, focusing on putting science and policy into practice. The sourcebook is structured into thematic modules, corresponding to the 10 essential functions of the NAP process developed by the LEG (see box 2). It focuses on 'how to', building on experience and best practices of countries. It also shows tools and other resources of direct use to countries to facilitate their work on the process to formulate and implement NAPs, while avoiding marketing any specific approaches. It strives to use well-tested approaches, and ones that have been published through a peer-review process. The LEG agreed to continue testing the modules in the remaining three regional workshops it has planned in 2015, with a view to integrating additional comments and suggestions for enhancement that would be received during the

[40] FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paragraph 84.

[41] See document FCCC/SBI/2014/13, paragraphs 38 and 39.

[42] The advisory group is composed of LEG members, a member of the Adaptation Committee and a representative of the LDC group.

workshops. The LEG also agreed to make the complete sourcebook available by December 2015;

(f) A brochure presenting an overview of the work of the LEG. The LEG discussed the opportunity of preparing a brochure presenting its work since its establishment in 2001 and referencing the products of the LEG. The LEG agreed that the preparation of the brochure could build upon information provided in the background paper of the stocktaking meeting on the work of the LEG;[43]

(g) A manual for understanding and navigating NAP Central.

2. Plan for the release of all prioritized publications in 2015

99. The LEG took note of all the publications that it is preparing for this year, in particular those that it intends to publish by SBI 42 or soon thereafter. Their titles are as follows:

(a) Overview of the NAP process and other products;

(b) PEG M&E tool;

(c) Strengthening gender considerations in adaptation planning and implementation in the LDCs;

(d) Best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs, volume 3;

(e) Technical paper on regional synergy;

(f) NAP Central pamphlet.

100. The LEG decided to assemble the six publications mentioned above into one package. They will be available in English, French and Portuguese.

101. The LEG agreed that the remaining publications will be made available by SBI 43/COP 21. They are:

(a) NAP Central manual;

(b) Information paper on how the process to formulate and implement NAPs can be supported in the LDCs;

(c) Sourcebook for the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

(d) Brochure – overview of the work of the LEG;

(e) Technical paper on synergy among MEAs.

[43] <unfccc.int/8875>.

Annex I

[English only]

Projects from the national adaptation programmes of action which have been technically cleared by the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and are awaiting funding under the Least Developed Countries Fund

Country	*Project title*	*Date of technical clearance*	*Total Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) received (grant and fees)* *USD million*	*Total project cost (including LDCF project preparation grant and fees and co-financing)* *USD million*	*Implementing agency*
Senegal	Promoting innovative finance and community-based adaptation in communes surrounding community natural reserves (Ferlo, Niokolo-Koba, Senegal River Basin Delta and Saloum Delta)	22 July 2014	6.143	23.043	UNDP[a]
Bhutan	Climate-resilient villages in Bhutan	15 July 2014	11.772	32.772	UNDP
Sierra Leone	Adapting to climate change induced coastal risks in Sierra Leone	4 November 2014	11.142	41.142	UNDP
Benin	Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihoods and subnational government system to climate risks and variability in Benin	14 November 2014	4.982	61.479	UNDP
Comoros	Strengthening	18 November 2014	10.000	47.650	UNDP

Country	*Project title*	*Date of technical clearance*	*Total Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) received (grant and fees)* *USD million*	*Total project cost (including LDCF project preparation grant and fees and co-financing)* *USD million*	*Implementing agency*
	Comoros resilience against climate change and variability related disaster				
Afghanistan	Adapting Afghan communities to climate-induced disaster risks	26 September 2014	6.296	61.017	UNDP
Lesotho	Strengthening climate services in Lesotho for climate-resilient development and adaptation to climate change	30 November 2014	5.606	21.516	UNEP[b]
Ethiopia	Climate change adaptation growth: implementing climate- resilient and green economy plans in highland areas in Ethiopia	2 September 2014	6.983	17.433	UNDP
Chad	Chad national adaptation plan	30 November 2014	6.488	24.488	UNDP
Mozambique	Building resilience in the coastal zone through ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation	1 December 2014	6.680	31.583	UNEP
Rwanda	Building the capacity of Rwanda's Government to advance the national adaptation planning	1 January 2015	6.734	34.633	UNEP

Country	Project title	Date of technical clearance	Total Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) received (grant and fees) USD million	Total project cost (including LDCF project preparation grant and fees and co-financing) USD million	Implementing agency
	process				
Guinea-Bissau	Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable coastal areas and communities to climate change in Guinea-Bissau	4 December 2014	13.407	39.557	UNDP
Nepal	Developing climate-resilient livelihoods in the vulnerable watershed in Nepal	13 February 2015	7.829	47.829	UNDP
Senegal	Senegal national adaptation plan	16 December 2014	3.300	12.300	UNDP
Uganda	Integrating climate resilience into agricultural and pastoral production in Uganda, through a farmer/agropastoralist field school approach	3 February 2015	7.760	37.029	FAO[c]
Chad	Community-based climate risks management in Chad	19 March 2015	5.913	21.913	UNDP
Nepal	Ecosystem-based adaptation for climate-resilient development in the Kathmandu Valley	3 March 2015	7.000	22.184	UNEP
Malawi	Climate adaptation for sustainable water supply	18 March 2015	3.000	42.500	AfDB[d]

Country	*Project title*	*Date of technical clearance*	*Total Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) received (grant and fees)* USD million	*Total project cost (including LDCF project preparation grant and fees and co-financing)* USD million	*Implementing agency*
Lesotho	Climate change adaptation for sustainable rural water supply in lowlands Lesotho	26 January 2015	5.000	22.250	AfDB
Guinea	Strengthening climate information and early warning systems for climate-resilient development and adaptation to climate change in Guinea	30 March 2015	5.639	36.154	UNDP
Regional project (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Timor-Leste)	Building resilience of health systems in Asian least developed countries to climate change	24 November 2014	10.381	44.946	UNDP
Regional project (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)	Building resilience of health systems in Pacific island least developed countries to climate change	12 March 2015	19.784	95.784	UNDP

[a] United Nations Development Programme.

[b] United Nations Environment Programme.

[c] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

[d] African Development Bank.

Annex II

[English only]

Rolling work programme of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group for 2015

Main activities	*Output/activity type/timing*
Objective 1: provide technical guidance and support to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) in the least developed countries (LDCs)[a]	
Expected result: the LDCs are effectively supported in the launching of, and in making progress under, their process to formulate and implement NAPs	
Develop and disseminate a publication presenting an overview of the process to formulate and implement NAPS and an overview of the guidelines for NAPs, including a glossary of commonly used terms and answers to frequently asked questions on NAPs, in English, French and Portuguese	Publication, by June 2015
Develop materials for use by countries at the national level on awareness and training activities in the process to formulate and implement NAPs	NAP sourcebook by the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), December 2015
Organize NAP Expo every year	NAP Expo, yearly
Formalizing the planning committee of the NAP Expo	Collaboration, ongoing
Organize in collaboration with the Adaptation Committee a workshop on experiences, good practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs on the process to formulate and implement NAPs	Event, 16–17 April 2015
Report on the workshop on experiences, good practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs on the process to formulate and implement NAPs	Information paper (document of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)) by June 2015
Respond to individual requests from Parties for support on the process to formulate and implement NAPs, including through the provision of comments and feedback on draft NAPs, and the sharing of experiences and lessons learned	Technical support, upon request
Continue to compile and analyse support needs for the process to formulate and implement NAPs, on an ongoing basis, including via questionnaires to Parties during the sessions of the subsidiary bodies and other relevant events	Information presented in Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) reports to the SBI, ongoing
Compile information on bilateral and multilateral sources of funding to support the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and the process to formulate and implement NAPs	Information to be posted on NAP Central, ongoing
Expected result: collaboration with other organizations leads to coordinated and effective support to the LDCs on NAPs	
Collaborate with a wide range of organizations through various modalities, such as technical meetings and sharing of relevant information and materials on the process to formulate and implement NAPs	Collaboration, ongoing
Prepare and disseminate an information paper on how the NAP	Information paper, by COP 21

Main activities	*Output/activity type/timing*
process can be supported in the LDCs	
Conduct regional training workshops on NAPs for the LDCs	Training workshops, 2014–2015
Objective 2: provide support to the LDCs on the preparation, revision/update and implementation of NAPAs[b]	
Expected result: the LDCs are effectively supported in the implementation of NAPAs	
Continue to invite the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its agencies, relevant organizations and experts to the LEG meetings and events to explore the issues faced by some LDCs in implementing NAPAs, and to provide information to the SBI on ways and means to address these issues with a view to enhancing the implementation of NAPAs	Information presented in LEG reports to the SBI
Conduct surveys/case studies to collect information on remaining needs of the LDCs for the full implementation of NAPAs	Information presented in LEG report to the SBI, by SBI 43
Expected result: the LDCs are assisted in the preparation, revision and update of their NAPAs	
Respond to individual requests for support in the preparation, revision and update of NAPAs, including through the provision of comments and feedback on draft NAPAs and draft revised and updated NAPAs, and the sharing of experiences and lessons learned	Technical support
Objective 3: support knowledge management and outreach in supporting adaptation planning, prioritization and implementation in the LDCs[c]	
Expected result: the LDCs are effectively supported through enhanced access to the best available information useful for their adaptation efforts	
Continue to further develop NAP Central to serve as a universally accessible web-based central repository and hub for information pertinent to the process to formulate and implement NAPS	Further operationalization in 2015, increased use of the online platform
Develop a pamphlet on accessing NAP Central (NAP Central pamphlet)	Pamphlet, by June 2015
Develop a manual on NAP Central	Publication, by COP 21
Prepare and disseminate the third volume of the publication on best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs, in English, French and Portuguese	Publication, by June 2015
Communicate complementary key information to the LDCs, through regular notes, in response to key concerns (such as on accessing funding under the Least Developed Countries Fund), in cooperation with the GEF and its agencies	Information notes to the LDCs, ongoing
Develop case studies capturing good practices and lessons learned on issues related to adaptation planning in collaboration with the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change	Information to be used in various LEG and Nairobi work programme products

Main activities	*Output/activity type/timing*
Objective 4: provide guidance and advice on the integration of adaptation into development planning and on strengthening gender-related considerations and considerations regarding vulnerable communities in adaptation planning and implementation in the LDCs[d]	
Expected result: the LDCs are effectively assisted in their efforts to integrate gender-related considerations and considerations regarding vulnerable communities into adaptation	
Complete and disseminate an information paper on strengthening gender considerations in adaptation planning and implementation in the LDCs	**Publication, by June 2015**
Develop and disseminate an information paper on strengthening considerations regarding vulnerable communities in adaptation planning and implementation in the LDCs	**Publication, by COP 21**
Objective 5: promote the quality and achievement of results through support for the monitoring and evaluation of progress, effectiveness and gaps in the context of NAPAs, NAPs and the LDC work programme in the LDCs[e]	
Expected result: support for monitoring the impact and effectiveness of efforts to address vulnerability is provided	
Develop a technical paper describing the tool for monitoring and evaluating progress, effectiveness and gaps in the process to formulate and implement NAPs (PEG M&E tool)	**Technical paper, by June 2015**
Compile and analyse information to monitor progress and effectiveness, and identify gaps in the implementation of NAPAs, the LDC work programme and NAPs	**Compilation, monitoring and analysis, ongoing**
Objective 6: support the implementation of the LDC work programme[f]	
Expected result: implementation of the LDC work programme is effectively facilitated	
Develop and disseminate an information paper on examples of the application of adaptation technologies in adaptation planning and implementation, in collaboration with the Technology Executive Committee	**Information paper, by COP 21**
Continue to collaborate with the GEF and its agencies and other organizations on ways to support the LDCs in implementing the LDC work programme, including through ways proposed in the report on the 21st meeting of the LEG[g]	**Technical support, ongoing**
Collaborate with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme on the global support programme for LDC negotiators that they are managing, and provide inputs when required	**Collaboration, upon request**
Objective 7: promote synergy of adaptation-related efforts under the Convention[h]	
Expected result: coherence in support to the LDCs is promoted under the Convention, regionally and with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)	
Complete and disseminate a technical paper on regional synergy in addressing adaptation in the LDCs	**Technical paper, by June 2015**
Complete and disseminate a technical paper on synergy among MEAs in addressing adaptation in the LDCs	**Technical paper, by COP 21**
Prepare a report on reporting channels under the Convention, in collaboration with the Adaptation Committee, to serve as	**Information paper, by COP 21**

Main activities	*Output/activity type/timing*
background information for discussions on reporting for the process to formulate and implement NAPs during the meeting on experiences, good practices and lessons learned, gaps and needs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs	
Continue to collaborate with the Adaptation Committee, including on revision of methodologies for capturing and sharing best practices and lessons learned, and further development of NAP Central, NAP Expo, training on NAPs and the Adaptation Committee task force on NAPs	Collaboration, ongoing
Continue collaboration with other bodies under the Convention, including the Technology Executive Committee, the Standing Committee on Finance and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention	Collaboration, ongoing
Objective 8: interact with the Green Climate Fund (GCF)to consider how best to support LDC Parties in accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs	
Expected result: the LEG collaboration with the GCF contributed to increasing awareness of how the LDCs can access and use the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs	
Collaborate with the GCF to provide relevant and timely information to the LDCs on the operation of the Fund, and invite a representative of the Fund to the LEG meetings	Collaboration, ongoing
Develop an information note orientating LDCs to the GCF website	Information note, in the course of 2015
Objective 8: promoting and ensuring coherence of support being provided to the LDCs for the process to formulate and implement NAPs	
Expected result: the LEG engagement with the global support programmes contributes to effective support to the LDCs on the process to formulate and implement NAPs	
Collaborate with the global support programmes in their provision of support to the process to formulate and implement NAPs to ensure coherence with the NAP guidelines, including by serving on the boards of the global support programmes	Collaboration, technical support, ongoing
Expected result: the LEG contribution to the work of relevant organizations facilitates the provision of coherence in country-level support, including country-level training	
Provide information on the NAP guidelines and contribute, without any implied endorsement, to the work of the NAP technical working group and other organizations, as they develop individual or joint supplementary materials to the NAP guidelines	Advice, ongoing

[a] Decision 5/CP.17, paragraphs 13 and 14.

[b] Decisions 29/CP.7, 4/CP.11, paragraph 2, 8/CP.13, paragraph 4, and 6/CP.16, paragraphs 1 and 2.

[c] Decisions 29/CP.7, 4/CP.11, paragraph 2, 8/CP.13, paragraph 4, 6/CP.16, paragraphs 1 and 2, and 5/CP.17, paragraphs 13 and 14.

[d] Decision 6/CP.16, paragraph 2(a).

[e] Decisions 29/CP.7, 6/CP.16 and 5/CP.17.

[f] Decision 5/CP.14, paragraph 2.

[g] FCCC/SBI/2012/7, paragraphs 31–45.

[h] Decisions 29/CP.7, 5/CP.17, paragraph 17, and 1/CP.18, paragraphs 55 and 56.

Annex III

[English only]

List of questions from the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to the Green Climate Fund as feedback to the presentation made by the Green Climate Fund on 9 March 2015

1. What are the specific mandates and modalities in place that the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is mandated (by the Conference of the Parties, its Board) to support least developed countries (LDCs)? What are the special access modalities for LDCs given the special status of LDCs under the Convention? Are there simplified and/or flexible procedures for the LDCs to access the GCF?

2. What are the important results under the GCF Board that an LDC needs to be aware of in order to adequately prepare its engagement with the Fund?

3. Given its experience with readiness programmes in the LDCs, what gaps and needs has the GCF found so far? How can the Least Developed Countries Expert Group assist in overcoming those gaps and needs?

4. What are key milestones this year that LDCs should be aware of, such as deadlines for project submissions, any regional targets for project approval?

5. Will the GCF investment criteria also apply to LDC projects?

6. With regard to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs):

(a) How can countries be supported in the process to formulate their NAPs as part of the readiness programme?

(b) How can the countries which have started their NAP process align with procedures under the GCF for country programming?

(c) How do countries go about further implementing or proposing for funding activities identified as priorities under the NAP process?

7. How soon will funds actually become available for LDCs, from the time they start engaging with the GCF?

8. How much and/or what are the criteria for the allocation of funds per country, within a given time frame?

9. Given the progress on the implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), and that some LDCs are revising/updating their NAPAs to take into account their current circumstances and the new climate realities, how will the GCF support the implementation of projects/programmes from the NAPAs?

Annex IV

[English only]

Members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group as at 12 March 2015

Mr. Abias Huongo	Angola
Mr. Ibila Djibril	Benin
Mr. Thinley Namgyel	Bhutan
Mr. Matti Nummelin	Finland
Mr. Mosuoe Letuma	Lesotho
Mr. Benon Bibbu Yassin	Malawi
Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety	Nepal
Mr. Jan Verhagen	Netherlands
Ms. Marianne Karlsen	Norway
Mr. Douglas Yee	Solomon Islands
Mr. Paul Abiziou Tchinguilou	Togo
Ms. Pepetua Election Latasi	Tuvalu
Mr. Fredrick Manyika	United Republic of Tanzania